

Remarks

Claims 1-30 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 6-15 and 17-30 stand rejected. Claims 5 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. No claims are amended in this Response. The Assignee respectfully traverses the rejection and requests allowance of claims 1-30.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6-15 and 17-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,775,267 to Kung et al. (hereinafter "Kung"). The Assignee respectfully traverses the rejection in light of the following discussion.

Claim 12 provides, in part, "a public switched telephone network billing system." The Office action indicates that this particular provision is anticipated by "Billing System (Legacy) (OSS) 195, hence PSTN billing system." The Assignee respectfully disagrees with this assertion. While an "operations support system," or OSS, typically provides support for the billing of a subscriber of a communication service, an OSS may be provided in a number of different types of communications networks, such as digital networks providing Internet access, cellular phone networks providing wireless phone access, and cable television networks providing audio/video data access. Thus, a legacy OSS billing system need not service a public switched telephone network, or PSTN. In fact, in Fig. 1 Kung shows the legacy OSS billing system 195 is employed in a broadband network 1, thus indicating that the legacy OSS billing system 195 is "an existing billing system 195" *for the broadband network 1*. See Fig. 1, and column 6, lines 43-61. Further, nowhere does Kung state that the legacy OSS billing system 195 is for a public switched telephone network. Thus, the public switched telephone network billing system of claim 12 is not taught or suggested by Kung.

Thus, based on at least the foregoing reasons, the Assignee asserts claim 12 is allowable, and such indication is respectfully requested.

Further, claim 1 also provides for a public switched telephone network billing system. Thus, based on the foregoing discussion, the Assignee contends claim 1 is also allowable for at least the same reasons provided above in support of claim 12, and such indication is respectfully requested.

In addition, since claims 2-4 and 6-11 depend from independent claim 1, and claims 13-15 and 17-22 depend from independent claim 12, the Assignee asserts that these sets of dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons provided above for their respective independent claims.

Therefore, the Assignee respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-15 and 17-22 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 23-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kung. The Assignee respectfully traverses the rejection in light of the foregoing discussion. More specifically, claim 23 provides for a public switched telephone network billing system in a fashion similar to that of claims 1 and 12. Since such a billing system is not taught or suggested in Kung, the Assignee contends that claim 23 is allowable, and such indication is respectfully requested.

Further, since claims 24-30 depend from independent claim 23, which is allowable under the foregoing discussion, the Assignee contends that claims 24-30 are also allowable for at least the same reasons as those provided above for claim 23, and such indication is respectfully requested.

Given the foregoing discussion, the Assignee respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 23-30 be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office action indicates that claims 5 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, the patentability of claims 5 and 16 is not discussed herein. The Assignee thanks the Examiner for his consideration of those particular claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon (i.e., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0064267 to Martin et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0010616 to Itzhaki, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0046279 to Chung, U.S. Patent

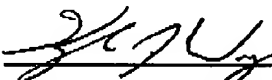
Application Publication No. 2003/0007496 to Brown et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0176378 to Hamilton et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,724,747 to Arango et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,768,733 to Shankar et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,867,495 to Elliott et al., and U.S. Patent No. 6,658,022 to West et al.) have been reviewed and are not considered to teach or suggest the current invention as claimed.

Based on the above remarks, the Assignee submits that claims 1-30 are allowable. Additional reasons in support of patentability may exist, but such reasons are omitted in the interests of clarity and brevity. The Assignee respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-30.

The Assignee believes no additional fees are due with respect to this filing. However, should the Office determine additional fees are necessary, the Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 21-0765.

Respectfully submitted,

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